CLAIMS:

- 1. A method of treating a subject having an inflammatory condition, comprising administering to the subject a combination of an effective amount of methotrexate (MTX) and an effective amount of an agonist of the A_3 adenosine receptor (A_3AR agonist).
- 2. A method according to Claim 1, wherein MTX is administered to the subject once weekly.
- 3. A method according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the A_3AR agonist is administered to subjects between once and a few times a day.
- 4. A method according to any one of Claim 1 to 3, wherein the A_3AR agonist is given to the subject orally.
- 5. A method according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, wherein the A_3AR agonist is IB-MECA or Cl-IB-MECA.
- 6. A method according to any one of Claims 3 to 6, wherein a daily dosage of said A_3AR agonist is less than 4 mg.
- 7. A method according to Claim 6, wherein a daily dosage of said A_3AR agonist is within the range of about 0.01 to about 2 mg.
- 8. A method according to Claim 7, wherein a daily dosage of said A_3AR agonist is within the range of about 0.1 to about 1.5 mg.
- 9. A method according to any one of Claims 1 to 8, wherein the inflammatory condition is an autoimmune disorder.
- 10. A method according to Claim 10, wherein said autoimmune disorder is rheumatoid arthritis.
- 11. The method according to Claim 10, wherein said A₃AR agonist is IB-MECA.
- 12. A method of treating a subject having an inflammatory condition and treated with MTX, comprising administering to the subject an effective amount of an A_3AR agonist.

- 13. A method of treating a subject having an inflammatory condition and indicated for treatment with an A_3AR agonist, comprising administering to the subject an effective amount of MTX.
- 14. A method according to Claim 12 or 13, wherein the A₃AR agonist is administered to the subject between once and a few times a day.
- 15. A method according to any one of Claims 12 to 14, wherein the A_3AR agonist is given to the subject orally.
- 16. A method according to any one of Claims 12 to 15, wherein the A_3AR agonist is IB-MECA or Cl-IB-MECA.
- 17. A method according to any one of Claims 12 to 16, wherein a daily dosage of said A_3AR agonist is less than 4 mg.
- 18. A method according to Claim 17, wherein a daily dosage of said A_3AR agonist is within the range of about 0.01 to about 2 mg.
- 19. A method according to Claim 18, wherein a daily dosage of said A_3AR agonist is within the range of about 0.1 to about 1.5 mg.
- **20.** A method according to any one of Claims 12 to 19, wherein the inflammatory condition is an autoimmune disorder.
- 21. A method according to Claim 20, wherein said autoimmune disorder is rheumatoid arthritis.
- 22. Use of an A₃AR agonist for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for treating a subject having an inflammatory condition and being treated with MTX.
- 23. Use of MTX for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for treating a subject having an inflammatory condition and being treated with an A_3AR agonist.
- 24. Use according to Claim 22 or 23, wherein said inflammatory condition is an autoimmune disorder.
- 25. Use according to Claim 14, wherein said autoimmune disorder is rheumatoid arthritis.

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- 26. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of an inflammatory condition and being treated with MTX, comprising an effective amount of A_3AR agonist.
- 27. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 26, comprising a physiologically acceptable carrier for oral delivery of said A₃AR agonist.
- 28. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 26 or 27, wherein said A₃AR agonist is IB-MECA or Cl-IB-MECA.
- 29. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 28, comprising less than 4 mg of said A₃AR agonist.
- 30. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 28, comprising less than 4 mg of said A_3AR agonist.
- 31. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 28, comprising between about 0.01 to about 2 mg of said A_3AR agonist.
- 32. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 28, comprising between about 0.1 to about 1.5 mg of said A₃AR agonist.
- 33. A pharmaceutical composition for treating a patient having an inflammatory condition and being treated with MTX, comprising an effective amount of an A3AR agonist.
- **34.** A pharmaceutical composition according to any one of Claims 26 to 33, wherein the inflammatory condition is an autoimmune disorder.
- 35. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 34, wherein said autoimmune disorder is rheumatoid arthritis.
- **36.** A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 35, wherein said A_3AR agonist is IB-MECA.